

Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2246A – Anthropology of Reading and Writing
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2023

Version date: September 7, 2023

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Tania Granadillo

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Antirequisites: The former Anthropology 2246F/G

Prerequisites: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Description:

This course examines reading and writing from an anthropological perspective. It looks at how writing originated based on archeological evidence and at the sociocultural consequences of this invention. Then it explores various writing systems around the world as well as the effects of the introduction of literacy in societies.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Read, summarize, and critically evaluate language related literature from academic and popular sources about reading and writing
- Explain the development of writing systems and the impacts of literacy in cultures around the world and through time.
- Recognize, understand and respect the complexity of cultural and linguistic diversity in the past and the present, locally and globally about writing systems.
- Appreciate the history, key arguments and applications of different theoretical approaches used in linguistic anthropology about reading and writing.

Course Materials:

Crystal, David. 2008. Txtng: The Gr8 Db8. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

Robinson, Andrew. 2007. The story of writing. London: Thames and Hudson.

Other Materials are available through OWL course website. Login at <http://owl.uwo.ca>

Evaluation:

Reading Quizzes	25%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	25%

Exam 1 and 2 – 25% each

The exams will take place during class in our regular classroom on October 6 and November 10. There will be no make-up test unless you provide documentation from Academic Counseling. Students arriving more than 20 minutes after the exam has begun will not be admitted. Details about the format of the exam will be given in class.

Quizzes on Readings – 25%

Every week there will be a reading quiz on OWL that will cover the lecture materials for the current week. This quiz will need to be completed 30 minutes before every class. This will ensure that everyone is up to date on the readings and will be able to follow and contribute to class presentations and discussions. There are a total of 10 reading quizzes and the lowest one will be dropped; because each one is worth less than 3% there will be no makeups. Note that there is a quiz on the first class.

Final Exam – 25%

The final exam will be administered according to the final exam schedule, date TBA. Conflicts with other exams will be dealt with according to policy. It will be a 2 hour exam covering the last third of the material. Details about the final exam will be given in class. No makeup will be administered unless the proper procedures are followed. Likewise, students needing special accommodation must follow the proper channels. **WARNING: DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS IN DECEMBER UNTIL YOU HAVE THE EXAM SCHEDULE IN HAND.** "I have a vacation already booked" is not a justification for a makeup exam.

Academic Statements and Policies:

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Use of OWL

Western's online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline and weekly schedule (using the Syllabus page), completing weekly quizzes (using the Test and Quizzes tool), and communicating with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages after each class. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

Accommodation Policies:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

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